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Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 CPR-01 IO-10 PPT-01

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

/075 W
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R 081143Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7841
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02197

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CONS, GW, GE, AU
SUBJECT: GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS AND THE GERMAN
CITIZENSHIP PROBLEM

REF: BONN 1755 AND PREVIOUS, VIENNA 1082

1. INITIAL BONN PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO AUSTRIA CONVEYS THE IMPRESSION THAT FRG-AUSTRIAN DIFFERENCES WITH REGARD TO THE GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED TO GERMAN SATISFACTION. A DPA DISPATCH FROM VIENNA QUOTES GENSCHER AS SAYING THAT KREISKY HAD CONFIRMED THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE HITHERTO SATISFACTORY PRACTICES ON CONSULAR REPRESENTATION. GENSCHER IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE FRG CAN GRANT CONSULAR PROTECTION TO THOSE WHO ASK FOR IT. KREISKY IS SAID TO HAVE GIVEN
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ASSURANCES THAT THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES DID NOT INTEND

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TO FORCE ANYONE INTO ONE CITIZENSHIP OR ANOTHER.

2. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND FEBRUARY 6 THAT GENSCHER PLANNED TO TELL THE AUSTRIANS THAT THE FRG HAD AN AGREED TEXT WITH THE BRITISH FOR THE LATTER TO USE IN ITS CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR. HOPEFULLY THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE AUSTRIANS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN MEETING FRG WISHES. VAN WELL HAD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OVER BRITISH ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROBLEM. VAN WELL HAD NOTED THAT THE FRG WAS SATISFIED WITH KREISKY'S PROMISE THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO CHANGE" IN THE PRESENT PRACTICE WHEREBY A GERMAN COULD APPLY TO AN FRG CONSULATE FOR ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF WHERE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY LIVED. HOWEVER, KREISKY WOULD NOT BE IN POWER FOREVER. THE FRG COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GDR WOULD LATER ON TRY TO EXERCISE THE "RIGHTS" THAT IT HAD OBTAINED IN THE GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR CONVENTION. THE FRG HAD INDICATIONS THAT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE GDR PLANS TO DO. SOME SAY THAT THE GDR INTENDS TO CREATE A "PAPER WALL" SIMILAR TO THE REAL WALL IN BERLIN. THE FRG WANTED SOMETHING CONCRETE FROM THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO WHICH IT COULD REFER IN CASE ITS SUSPICIONS ARE REALIZED.

3. COMMENT. WE HAVE QUERIED THE FOREIGN OFFICE AS TO WHETHER THE AUSTRIANS HAD MAINTAINED WITH GENSCHER THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION; I.E., THAT, WHILE THERE WOULD INDEED BE NO CHANGES IN PAST PRACTICE ON CONSULAR REPRESENTATION, THEY WERE NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO GIVE WRITTEN ASSURANCES IN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OR BY UNILATERAL STATEMENT. OUR CONTACTS SAID THAT FURTHER TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WERE ENVISAGED WITH THE AUSTRIANS, AND THERE WERE "PROSPECTS" FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCES. THEY WERE NOT ANY MORE SPECIFIC THAN THIS. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MAIN RESULT OF THE GENSCHER VISIT, SO FAR AS THE GDR-AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT IS CONCERNED, IS TO REMOVE SOME OF THE HEAT WHICH HAD COME INTO THE ISSUE CHIEFLY AS A RESULT OF GENSCHER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS (AND KREISKY'S RESPONSE). THIS PRACTICAL RESULT
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IS PROBABLY TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES, ALTHOUGH IT LEAVES OPEN THE QUESTION OF THE "PROSPECTS" FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCES.
HILLENBRAND

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